



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 17, 2018

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at City Hall in Council Chambers at 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Brian Smith
Andrew Creel
Pam Thompson
Marisa Perales
Katie Coyne
Peggy Maceo
Hank Smith
Wendy Gordon

Commissioners Absent:

Linda Guerrero
Mary Ann Neely

Staff in Attendance:

Pamela Abee-Taulli
Alex Butler
Heather Chaffin
Kaela Champlin
Jonathan Garner
Chris Herrington
Scott Hiers
Mike McDougal
Staryn Wagner

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Gordon called the meeting to order at 6:08 P.M.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Speakers should sign up to speak prior to the meeting being called to order; you will receive a three-minute allotment to discuss topics not posted on the agenda.

None

3. EDUCATION

a. None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION

a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of September 19, 2018
(5 minutes)

The minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of September 19, 2018 were approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Thompson's second on an 8-0 vote. Commissioners Guerrero and Neely were absent.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER'S UPDATE ON PAST COMMISSION ACTIONS AND REPORT ON ITEMS OF INTEREST

- a. Clarify rules for making motions (5 minutes)
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS*

- a. None

7. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Update on Water Forward—Chris Herrington, Interim Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department (10 minutes)
A recommendation was approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner B. Smith's second on an 8-0 vote. Commissioners Guerrero and Neely were absent.
- b. 20 years of protecting Barton Springs naturally—Sherri Kuhl, Division Manager and Kevin Thuesen, Environmental Conservation Program Manager, Austin Water Wildland Conservation Division (30 minutes)
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Discuss and consider the modifications for a Restrictive Covenant Amendment application for an 18.308-acre piece of property located at 6901 Old Bee Caves Road, Austin, TX 78735—Chris Herrington, Interim Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department (30 minutes)
A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Coyne's second on an 8-0 vote. Commissioners Guerrero and Neely were absent.

A recommendation to support the request for amending the restrictive covenant was approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Coyne's second on an 8-0 vote. Commissioners Guerrero and Neely were absent.

- b. **Name:** 3919 Westlake Drive, SP-2018-0320DS (D-10)
Applicant: Kathryn O'Conner Counts and Rick Rasberry, (512) 970-0371
Location: 3919 Westlake Drive, Austin, TX 78746
Staff: Scott Hiers, Environmental Scientist Senior, Watershed Protection Department
Pamela Abee-Taulli, Environmental Review Specialist Senior
Mike McDougal, Environmental Program Coordinator, Development Services Department
Watershed: Lake Austin (Water Supply Rural) Drinking Water Protection Zone
Request: Variance request is as follows:
1. To allow the construction of a boat dock within a 150-foot Critical Environmental Feature buffer (Canyon Rimrock/Seep Complex). 25-8-281(C)(2)(b)
Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval for the variances
Reasons for Recommendation: The findings of fact have been met.
(30 minutes)
A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Creel's second on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Coyne was off the dais. Commissioners Guerrero and Neely were absent.

A recommendation to support the variance request was approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner B. Smith's second on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Coyne was off the dais. Commissioners Guerrero and Neely were absent.

- c. **Name:** The Holdsworth Center, SPC-2017-0513C (D-10)
Applicant: Dwayne Shoppa, Stantec, (512) 469-5364
Location: 4907 RM 2222, Austin, TX 78731
Staff: Jonathan Garner, Environmental Program Coordinator, Development Services Department
Scott Hiers, Environmental Scientist Senior, Watershed Protection Department
Watershed: Lake Austin
Request: Variance request is as follows:
1. Fill exceeding four feet in depth in the drinking water protection zone, not to exceed 10 feet.
- Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval with conditions
Reasons for Recommendation: The findings of fact have been met.
(30 minutes)
A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Gordon's motion, Commissioner H. Smith's second on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Coyne was off the dais. Commissioners Guerrero and Neely were absent.

A recommendation to support the variance request was approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Thompson's second on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Coyne was off the dais. Commissioners Guerrero and Neely were absent.

- d. **Name:** 2001 S.1st Street, SP-2018-0017C (D-9)
Applicant: Casey Giles, PSW Real Estate, LLC, (512) 294-3609
Location: 2001 S 1st Street, Austin, TX 78704
Staff: Pamela Abee-Taulli, Environmental Review Specialist Senior, Development Services Department
Watershed: East Bouldin Creek, Urban, Desired Development Zone
Request: Variance request is as follows:
1. Request to vary from 25-8-261 to allow a portion of the driveway to be constructed in the critical water quality zone.
- Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval, with conditions.
Reasons for Recommendation: The findings of fact have been met.
(30 minutes)
Item 8d. was considered before Items b and c.
A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Coyne's second on an 8-0 vote. Commissioners Guerrero and Neely were absent.

A recommendation to support the variance request was approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Thompson's second on an 8-0 vote. Commissioners Guerrero and Neely were absent.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Urban Growth Policy and Water Quality Protection Committee – Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson, Hank Smith, Linda Guerrero, and Wendy Gordon
- b. Development Committee – Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson, Hank Smith, Katie Coyne, and Wendy Gordon
Commissioner Perales gave an update on the Development Committee.

- c. Air Quality Committee –Mary Ann Neely, Pam Thompson, and Wendy Gordon
- d. Urban Forestry Committee – Peggy Maceo, Pam Thompson, Linda Guerrero, Mary Ann Neely, and Wendy Gordon
- e. Drainage Infrastructure and Flood Mitigation Committee – Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson, Mary Ann Neely, Hank Smith, and Brian Smith
- i. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee – Katie Coyne
- j. Report from Mary Ann Neely on the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizen’s Advisory Committee
- k. Report on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board – Mary Ann Neely, Peggy Maceo, Linda Guerrero, and Pam Thompson
- l. Report on the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board – Linda Guerrero
- m. Zilker Park Working Group – Hank Smith and Mary Ann Neely
Commissioner H. Smith gave an update on the Zilker Park Working Group.
- n. Other reports from Commissioners

10. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

- a. None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Gordon adjourned the meeting at 7:50 P.M.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days before the meeting date. For additional information, please call **Kaela Champlin**, Watershed Protection Department, at (512) 974-3443; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711. For more information on the Environmental Commission, please contact **Kaela Champlin**, Watershed Protection Department, at (512) 974-3443.

** A member of the public may not address a board or commission at a meeting on an item posted as a briefing, per City Code Section 2-1-144(E).*